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Daily Eastern News: February 15, 2007

Eastern Illinois University

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(BE SURE TO TELL US YOUR NAME, WHO IS IN THE PHOTO, WHAT THEY ARE DOING AND WHEN IT WAS TAKEN.)

“TELL **THE TRUTH** AND DON’T BE AFRAID.”

WWW.DENNEWS.COM

the DAILY EASTERN NEWS

THURSDAY
2.15.07

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Volume | 93 Issue | 28

City’s sex offenders total 21

COLES COUNTY SEX OFFENDER BREAKDOWN

» Convicted of a crime against a minor: 18

» Aged 19: 1

» Aged between 20 and 29: 6

» Aged between 30 and 39: 6

» Aged between 40 and 49: 4

» Aged between 50 and 59: 3

» Aged 60: 1

By Rob Siebert
Senior City Reporter

Coles County has 84 registered sex offenders, according to the Illinois State Police Department. Of those offenders, 21 reside in Charleston – 18 of whom were convicted for a crime against a victim under 18 years of age. Though the ages of the offenders vary, their race is predominantly the same. “It’s almost overwhelmingly white males,” said Mark Jenkins, Deputy Chief of the Charleston Police Department. Jenkins said the lack of racial diversity among offenders is likely because Charleston is primarily populated by Caucasians. The list did contain one white female and one black male. Five of the offenders were classified as sexual predators. Four of them were charged with abuse against a victim between the ages of 13 and 16, one with two counts of child pornography. Once a person is classified as a sexual predator, it remains on their record for the rest of his or her life. Jenkins said the number of offenders in the town can fluctuate at any given time. Mattoon has 53 registered sex offenders, 32 more than Charleston.

Of those offenders, 19 were listed as sexual predators. Mattoon police Chief Larry Metzelaars said he didn’t know why Mattoon has more sex offenders, but noted that Charleston and Mattoon cater to different populations. Sgt. Jason Cobb, who handles sex offender crimes for the city of Mattoon, was unable to be reached for comment. The Mattoon Police Department has sex offender compliance teams in place to check in on its registered offenders on a monthly basis.

City deals with 5-inch snowfall

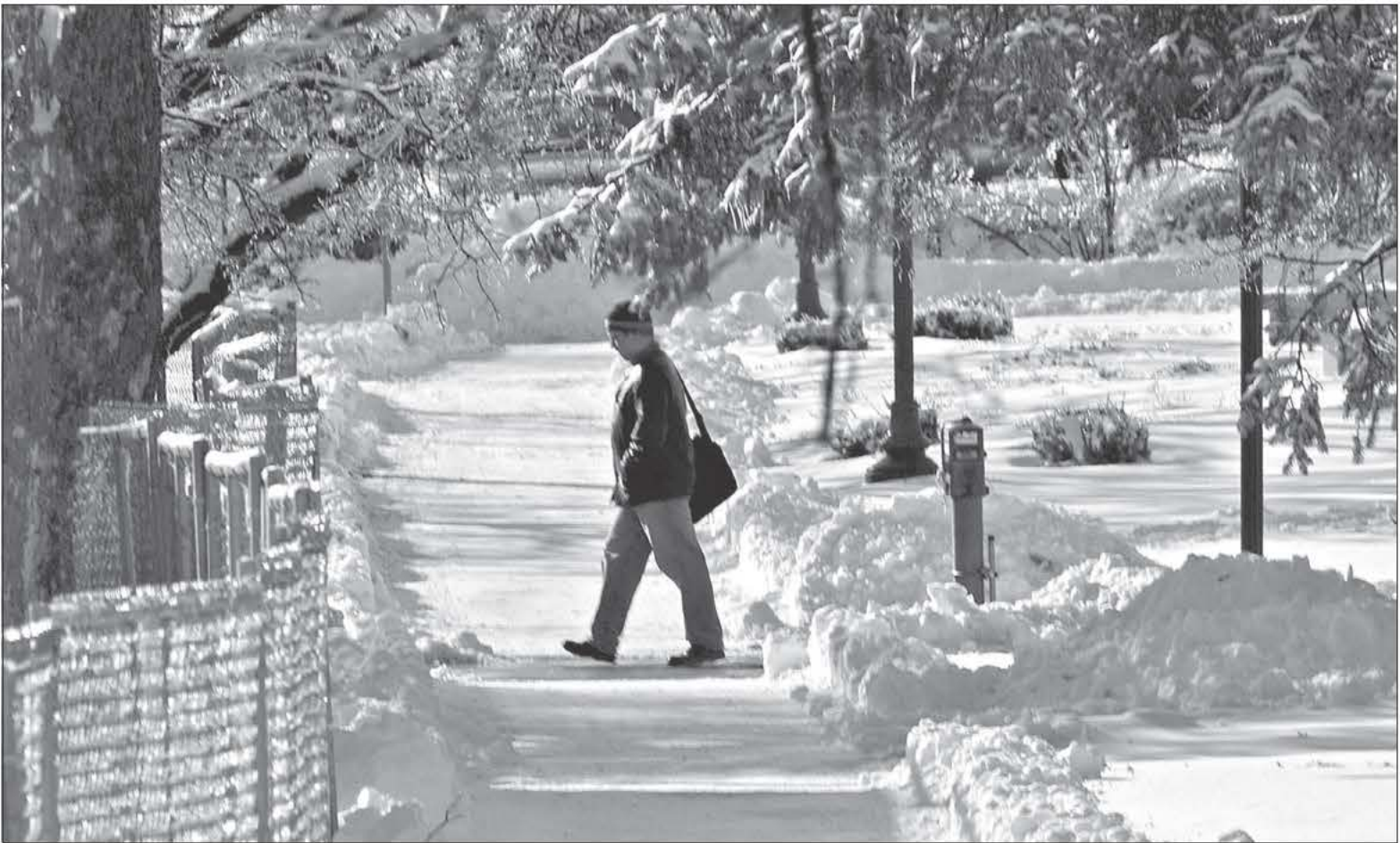
Area students headed back to school after two-day hiatus

By Rob Siebert
Senior City Reporter

The city is on the rebound after this week’s onslaught of snow. Charleston area schools will re-open today after a two-day closure. Gary Niehaus, superintendent of Charleston Community School District 1, made the decision to close the schools after speaking with the superintendent of the Mattoon School District. Niehaus said the two districts

usually make closure decisions together. The decision to close the schools Wednesday morning was made at about 5:30 a.m., as there was no salt on the roads yet and the sun hadn’t yet started melting the snow, Niehaus said. Charleston weather observer Dalias Price said it snowed about 5 inches during the storm. Price is a retired meteorology professor. But with all the wind causing snowdrifts, it’s hard to measure, Price said. Niehaus estimated few problems for today. “We’ll still have to be careful, but tomorrow will be a much better day,” he said yesterday. This week marked the only time the district has had to close its doors during this school year. The district has five reserved snow days in its calendar. Niehaus said some schools reserve up to 10. Parents are more often angry with the district on certain days when it doesn’t close school, as opposed to days when it does, he said. Niehaus said parents are allowed to pick their children up from school if they are apprehensive about snow conditions. Mayor John Inyart said that snow plows were on the roads by 1

a.m. Tuesday. Because of the fatigue involved, the city was forced to split the shifts of many of its street workers. Inyart said the workers will be compensated for their extra efforts. “You can bet that there will be some overtime costs involved,” he said. Overall, the city did an excellent job clearing the roads, Inyart said. Inyart added that the situation could have been much worse. Had the winds been more severe, power outages might have occurred. The city of Charleston did not work to clear Rt. 16. The state of Illinois has that responsibility.



A lone commuter walks down the icy sidewalk past Booth Library on Wednesday afternoon.

JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Snow sets classes back two days

Teachers expect to catch up quickly

By Beth Hackett
Activities Reporter
and
Matt Hopf
Student Government Reporter

Peter Andrews has never canceled class because of weather in his 15 years at Eastern. Andrews, chair of the mathematics and computer science department, said that with classes canceled most of Tuesday and all

of Wednesday, teachers will get behind. In one of his computer science classes, the lecture for this week’s lab did not take place, he said. Eastern President Lou Hencken announced the cancellation of Wednesday classes late Tuesday night because of a snow storm. Classes that began after 11 a.m. on Tuesday were also canceled. It was the first time in 25 years Eastern classes were canceled. Andrews said it is harder to catch up with the material in higher-level courses. For Richard Wendling, chair of the political science department, the cancellation of classes disrupted his syllabus. His class meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Because of the cancellation and Friday off for Abraham Lincoln’s birthday, they met just once this week. “We will catch up, though,” he said. “Sometimes the weather can intervene with our plans.” The cancellation of classes did infringe on the weekly rhythm of class work, but it wasn’t a horrible inconvenience, said Capt. Christopher Burkhardt, assistant

professor in the military sciences department. “We’ll just have to double up on prep work for upcoming training,” Burkhardt said. “This is nothing that can’t be easily resolved.” Teachers were not the only campus employees affected by the weather. University housing and dining services had to make some changes, including shorter hours at the Food Court. The Java Beanery and Bakery were closed Wednesday as well.

Illinois digs out from storm

Wednesday spent doing the cleanup that was impossible on Tuesday

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Work crews around Illinois spent Wednesday clearing roadways and thousands of students stayed home — some for the second straight day — a day after a fierce storm blanketed big chunks of the state with snow.

“It’s turning around for the better, we’re getting more roads cleared,” said Matt Vanover, a spokesman for the Illinois Department of Transportation.

But around the state, particularly in central and eastern Illinois, Wednesday was a day of doing the kind of cleanup that proved impossible Tuesday when the steady snowfall and high winds overpowered similar efforts.

At the Fifth Street Flower Shop in Springfield Tuesday, “we were stuck in our own parking lot trying to get out, this morning we were up and around,” said Nancee Seward, who works there. “Everything seems to be going smoothly.”

The storm also had hampered crews from clearing streets.

“We were struck with a storm that kept giving us persistent snow (and) as soon as our trucks hit the

MATT SMITH | SPOKESMAN FOR STREET AND SANITATION DEPT.

“We'd have to go back again and again and again. We had to hit some routes 30, 40 times.”

major routes and plowed and put salt down ... it would get covered over again,” said Matt Smith, a spokesman for Chicago’s streets and sanitation department. “We’d have to go back again and again and again. We had to hit some routes 30, 40 times.”

On Wednesday, though, he said the 400 vehicles plowing through Chicago had cleared the city’s major streets and were busy clearing secondary streets as well.

And Vanover said that as of Wednesday afternoon, there were still about a dozen roads closed in parts of central Illinois.

He said efforts to plow roads were slowed because the snow plows encountered several abandoned vehicles. Reminders of the way the storm overwhelmed drivers could be seen in some areas, including along Interstate 55 between Lincoln and Springfield, where a handful of cars and semi-trucks remained stranded along the roadway.

Still, Vanover said he expected all the roads to open by sundown Wednesday.

The slick and icy roads continued

to slow traffic and create problems in various parts of the state. In the Kane County community of Sugar Grove, the icy roads led to a chain-reaction accident Wednesday morning that left seven people injured. Their conditions were not immediately known.

Meanwhile, schools remained closed in parts of the state, particularly central and eastern Illinois, where snowfall totals topped a foot in some areas. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was closed Wednesday for the second straight day, but officials expected the school to reopen Thursday.

The National Weather Service said no measurable snow was expected Thursday in Illinois, but that temperatures in much of the state were expected to plummet to zero and below early Thursday and late Thursday night. Temperatures were to climb no higher than the teens during the day. In southern Illinois, the weather service said the temperatures would climb into the low 20s Thursday and the low to mid-30s on Friday.

Snow makes mess of Valentine's Day

Storm grounds hundreds of flights, ruins dinner plans

The Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio — With snow blowing over slippery roads in this frigid city, everyone but emergency workers was ordered to stay off the roads for several hours Wednesday. So what was Derrick Jones doing out there, delivering red roses and heart-shaped balloons?

On this Valentine’s Day, that was emergency work.

“Rules are made to broken,” Jones said Wednesday, driving along a deserted downtown street after about a foot of snow had fallen. “Valentine’s Day is a once-a-year event.”

Most customers were surprised to see him. “One guy even gave me a \$50 tip just for coming out,” he said.

Many giftless spouses across the Midwest and Northeast gladly would have done the same on a day when blowing snow and sleet glazed windshields and roads, messing up Valentine’s Day flower deliveries and wrecking couples’ plans for romantic dinners out.

“We are dead,” said Edigio DiPaola, owner of Spennato’s Restaurant in Northfield, Ohio, his heavily Italian-accented voice dripping with disappointment. He predicted his intimate restaurant’s low lighting, lace tablecloths, Italian wine and marinara sauce would get little use Wednesday.

“We got over a foot of snow so it’s very bad. ... This was a big day for us. Now it will be way below average.”

Not even a quiet evening at home was necessarily a comfortable

DERRICK JONES | DELIVERY DRIVER

“One guy even gave me a \$50 tip just for coming out.”

alternative — about 300,000 customers lost power. The storm also grounded hundreds of flights and forced the closing of schools and businesses from Kentucky to Maine. At least 12 deaths were blamed on the huge storm system.

Blizzard warnings were posted for parts of New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Maine, where as much as 2 feet of snow was possible.

The storm’s cold, snow, sleet and rain made life difficult for Valentine’s Day messengers.

“Cold. Slippery. Nobody has their sidewalks sanded,” said Caroline Roggero at Rose Petal Florist in Newport, R.I. “They all want their delivery today.”

Some delivery drivers got stuck on the roads. Flowers delivered to offices were turned away because the businesses were closed. And customers had to change their orders to have flowers delivered to homes instead of places of work.

“We’re hoping people will understand we’re doing the best we can do,” said Pat Jarvis at Dwyer Florist in Northampton, Mass.

The 15,000-member Society of American Florists says Valentine’s Day accounts for more than a third of annual sales. Spokeswoman Jennifer Sparks said most florists have four-wheel drive vehicles, and many tried to deliver flowers early.

Americans were predicted to spend \$16.9 billion this Feb. 14, according to the National Retail Federation’s annual Valentine’s Day

survey. More than 45 percent of consumers planned an evening out.

Vermont’s state government ordered all nonessential employees home after noon, the New York Capitol in Albany came to a near-halt, and some Pennsylvania state workers were told to stay home. Maine’s governor declared a state of emergency to ensure deliveries of heating oil, and New York’s governor activated the National Guard.

In upstate New York, more than a foot of snow had fallen by midday in Herkimer County in the Adirondacks, and up to 3 feet of snow was possible. But the brunt of the storm bypassed towns near the east end of Lake Ontario that had been buried by 10 feet and more of lake-effect snow over the past week.

It was even too cold and snowy to make snow angels in Syracuse, N.Y. School officials had planned to try setting a world record for most snow angels in one place on Thursday, but postponed the effort, citing the weather.

In the Midwest, Springfield, Ill., got 16 inches of snow, and stiff wind piled the snow into drifts as high as 9 feet in parts of Indiana.

Hundreds of flights were canceled Wednesday at the New York City area’s three major airports and in Albany, Boston, Washington, Chicago, Philadelphia, Cincinnati and Indianapolis.

About 300,000 customers lost power in Ohio, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, Indiana and New York’s Long Island.

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Contact any of the above staff members you believe your information is relevant to at their provided e-mail address.

You may also call 581-7942 or visit the student publications newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

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Wanted: BLOOD

By **Tearria Ruffin**
Campus Reporter

It happens every two seconds. Someone, somewhere in the United States, needs blood.

Blood shortages occur most often during the winter and summer months because of weather, poor health and vacations that people go on instead of donating, said Angie Vonderheide.

Vonderheide is the coordinator of donor relations for the Community Blood Services of Illinois, a non-profit organization licensed and regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

"It's very important to be a regular blood donor because life is so unpredictable," she said.

CBSI and the Red Cross are two organizations sponsoring blood drives on campus this week and next week.

Eastern is an excellent site to co-sponsor a blood drive because of its many students, said Tracy South, a donor recruiter for the Missouri and Illinois areas.

"Patients' lives hang in the balance," South said. "We don't do it because I need the blood or Red Cross needs the blood. We do it for the patients."

The snowstorm that buried the area from Monday night to Tuesday night prompted the Red Cross to issue a press release that informed the public of a shortage. Because of the storm, 13 area blood drives had to be canceled.

The American Marketing Association and Delta Delta Sigma will sponsor a blood drive Tuesday from 1 to 7 p.m. in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Ballroom

Jesse Gorniack, Alpha Sigma Tau community service chair, said the reason college students don't give blood is because of fear.

"There's a lot of people in need of blood," Gorniack said. "People in the community can provide it."

Vonderheide said that CBSI is the sole blood provider of five hospitals in East Central Illinois, which includes Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center.

In order to accommodate their hospitals, they need at least 500 pints of blood per week. One pint of blood can save as many as three peoples' lives.

"If all blood donors gave two to four times a year, it would help prevent blood shortages," Vonderheide said.

South said that a reason people choose not to give blood is because they are misinformed.

"People aren't aware about giving blood," South said.

To donate blood, a person must be healthy, at least 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds or more, and also meet other donor requirements, Vonderheide said.

A sterile needle is used only once for each donor and thrown away. The entire blood-donor process takes less than 12 minutes.

South said the Red Cross has filed an appeal and has not added blood since Feb. 6.

She said that she wants to see a steady supply of donations all the time, not just when there is a national emergency.

"It's not adversity when I want people to give blood," South said. "I want people to give blood every six to eight weeks."

weatheroutlook

TODAY
17° | 7°
Mostly Cloudy

FRIDAY
25° | 23°
Mostly Sunny

SATURDAY
32° | 19°
Snow showers

All that Jazz



ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Mark Colby performs with the Eastern Jazz Ensemble on Friday night in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union to start off the 48th annual EIU Jazz Festival.

Determining the fate of the final eight

**Presidential Search
Committee narrows
applicants after
today's meeting**

By **Ashley Rueff**
Senior University Reporter

The pool of Eastern presidential applicants will be whittled down to approximately eight candidates at today's Presidential Search Advisory Committee.

The committee will meet in executive session to discuss the resumes and references of the remaining 15 applicants. The pool started with 58 applications and was narrowed to 16 at the committee's Jan. 31 meeting. Since then, one applicant has withdrawn.

The reference checks for the remaining candidates were divided among the 16 voting committee members for further research, said Robert Webb, chair of the committee and vice chair of the Board of Trustees. Some candidates had as many as six references to contact.

ROBERT WEBB | COMMITTEE CHAIR

"We want to make it objective, but there comes a point when it becomes a subjective decision, as well."

The resumes and references will be discussed today to continue narrowing the pool.

"Based on those reports, we will try to choose approximately eight candidates that we want to schedule for interviews," Webb said.

The committee will refer to the presidential profile created earlier in the search process to decide which candidates are best suited for the job.

"We want to make it objective, but there comes a point when it becomes a subjective decision, as well," Webb said. "To a certain extent you have to have a feel about what you think is the right characteristic of the applicant."

Webb said he was happy with the number and quality of candidates.

"I think they're particularly outstanding," he said. "Both from their educational background

and from the standpoint of their experience in higher education."

Many of the applicants are connected to many publications, have been active in making presentations at conferences and have experience in higher education, Webb said.

"Many of them have responsible administrative experience in institutions of higher education across the country," he said.

Off-campus interviews will be held with the remaining candidates Feb. 27 and 28, so long as the applicants are available.

The committee will interview four candidates each day for about two hours at a time.

Webb said the search is on schedule and he expects to present the final recommendations to the Board of Trustees to make a final decision in March.

CAMPUS

THURSDAY
2.15.07

campusbriefs

AB's meeting pushed back to next week, budgets on agenda

» The Apportionment Board meeting has been moved to Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Arcola-Tuscola Room in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Members will prepare for annual budget evaluations for the Student Recreation Center, University Board, Student Government and AB. The AB will examine these organizations' budget requests throughout March.

—Zach Nugent, Apportionment Board Reporter

The Student Senate meeting canceled because of weather

» The Student Senate meeting scheduled for Wednesday was canceled.

The weather and road conditions led Student Senate Speaker Jeff Lange to cancel the meeting.

With no proposals or resolutions on the agenda, it was not necessary to bring the senate in with the weather conditions, Lange said.

The IBHE-SAC presentation scheduled for Wednesday night's meeting will take place at the next meeting, he said.

The senate will meet at 7 p.m. next Wednesday in the Arcola-Tuscola Room in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

—Matt Hopf, Student Government Reporter

Faculty encouraged to wear blue for Panther Pride Day

» The Office of Admissions is conducting an open house Monday and would like faculty to wear blue as a part of Panther Pride Day. This is to make it easier for more than 400 prospective students and their families to navigate around the campus, said Karenlee Spencer, an admissions counselor.

Those who participate are asked to send a photo of an individual or a small group from your department wearing blue at the open house by Feb. 26 to kspencer@eiu.edu. The winning photo will receive a \$25 gift certificate to the University Bookstore.

Food court hours reduced for holiday weekend

» The food court at the Union will be open fewer hours this weekend in observance of Lincoln's birthday weekend. Hours will be 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday; and 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Sunday.

Normal operating hours will resume Monday.

Residential dining centers will consolidate to Taylor Dining for Saturday and Sunday.

—Marco Santana, Campus Editor

COMMENTS | CORRECTIONS | EVENTS

To report any errors, local events or general suggestions for future editions please contact our news editor, **Cathy Bayer**, via:

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VIEWS

TUESDAY

2.13.06

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FEATURED BLOGGER | KEVIN KENEALY

"Oops! A number of explosions rocked a chemical distribution plant, covering the city in black smoke; however, officials aren't laying blame because the problem was an accident."



View From the UK

GUEST COLUMNIST | SIMON RUSSELL

Under the weather

These days the Number One British Pastime is moaning about our weather. If you're a whinging whiner it's always either too hot or too cold - never just right. We should try to keep things in perspective: it is the U.K. we're talking about here. Summer temperatures sometimes push into the mid-90s; in winter, it's rare for the mercury to dip below 20F. Yes, I hear you. Looking outside today, or thinking back to summer, these conditions are hardly anything to grumble about. Without the weather, though, it's sad to say that we Brits would have nothing to talk about.

Actually, that's not entirely true. The Number Two British Pastime is complaining about our public transport network. In winter we get a double-whammy: we can complain about both our transport *and* our weather. Those in charge of our rail system have still yet to work out that it gets cold at this time of year. Sometimes it even snows. As Tom Jones would say: It's not unusual.

Yes, it only takes one snowflake to hit the rails and all trains stop dead, quite literally, in their tracks. British Rail, a government-owned company labelled as inefficient and wasteful, was privatised in the belief that competition and the need to make a profit would somehow benefit the customer. Now, one company owns the tracks and several regional franchises lease rolling-stock to operate their services. The outcome: an unmitigated disaster. Rush-hour passengers squeezed together more tightly than mating sardines, no clear chain of responsibility for safety and prices rising faster than Bill Clinton's cigar in a room full of women. So, who's benefited from these 15 years of meddlesome muddle? Not the passengers. Sadly, shareholders matter more - profit and dividends: surely not what the politicians had in mind (but who knows?).

So, despite the hours it takes to cover even short distances (imagine squeezing 60 million people into a space slightly larger than Illinois) and the \$9 a gallon for gas

For the past couple of weeks, we at *The Daily Eastern News* have had a large increase in the number of letters to the editor sent in by our readers.

The majority of these letters were sent in by students and faculty personally attacking each other over the idea of racism.

There were two clearly contrasting views of racism with plenty of gray area between them both. Outside of those views are extremes that can be called racist.

However, it seems words such as racist, sexist, prejudice, bigot, zealot and ignorant, as well as many others are overused by people today, completely stripping them of their powerful meanings.

The majority of people in academia today are working hard to combat racism and accurately define it.

Has society kept people oppressed for centuries and does it continue to be structured in a racist way? According to many, yes. But are laws like affirmative action racist or prejudice in their own right? Many say yes to this, also.

The truth is that both sides *could* be seen as racist, but that is not the intention of mainstream supporters of either. And each

time we call American society or affirmative action "racist," it takes some of the strength out of that word that we should be using against people who honestly feel one race is superior to another.

Calling other students and faculty "ignorant" because the views they have developed after years of study are different is tasteless and tacky.

We're all here at college to find ourselves and discover our own beliefs, not to conform to mainstream beliefs. Elitism is dangerous and can be blamed for being the root of hatred, racism and fascism.

It's understandable that those who have been oppressed, attacked or discriminated against in any way are not going to take prejudice lightly. We need to make sure that if we see any form of prejudice anywhere on campus, that we act accordingly in order to better the environment for everyone.

As a society and as a university, we continue moving closer and closer to tolerance of not only all people, but all beliefs as well.

Fifteen years ago, Eastern was more than 92 percent "white." Ten years ago, the white population was 89 percent. And five years

ago it was 87 percent.

It has since been dropping more rapidly than ever.

And today's student body is 83.1 percent white, 7.5 percent black, 2.3 percent Hispanic, 1.2 percent Asian and 0.3 percent Native American.

Though this is not consistent with Illinois' population of only 61 percent white, 15 percent black, 12 percent Hispanic, 3.5 percent Asian and 0.2 percent Native American, it can still be called progress.

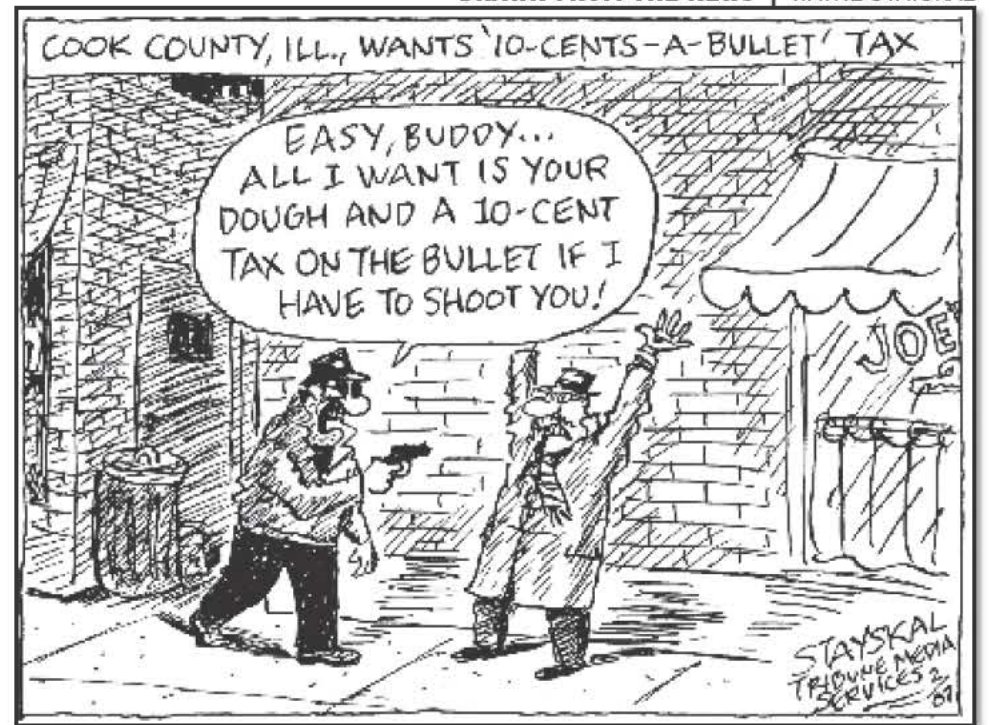
Sure, *less* racism isn't the goal we are trying to reach. We want *no* racism. But it's not going to come overnight.

Although we *could* call it racist that the university's numbers aren't equal to the population distribution, equal doesn't always mean fair. Equal opportunity is fair. And that is the goal we are trying to reach as a society (through various methods) after centuries of legalized oppression took place.

We shouldn't say it's racist if 83 of every 100 students in a class aren't white, or if 83 percent of the football team isn't white. What's important is that Eastern provides an equal opportunity for every student. And we feel the university is doing a great job at it.

The editorial is the majority opinion of The Daily Eastern News editorial board.
 Reach the Opinions editor at DENopinions@gmail.com.

DRAWN FROM THE NEWS | WAYNE STAYSKAL



COLUMNIST | KEVIN MURPHY

Eastern unprepared for snow

Granted, Eastern rarely shuts down because of a snow day, but Tuesday's winter wonderland would have been within reason.

Information Technology Services sent an e-mail late Monday night advising students of conditions.

Here's what the email said:

Information regarding status of classes will be available after 4 a.m. on 2/13 on EIU's home page www.eiu.edu.

Information will also be disseminated to local radio and television stations. WEIU-FM 88.9 will broadcast the latest information as it becomes available.

Checking the eiu.edu at 7 a.m. Tuesday, it said the status was normal and the rest of the locations were on alert.

Is that a snow day?

I drudged along to my class in Blair Hall, temperatures hovering around freezing, wind blowing in my face, as I stepped in ankle-deep snow and slush.

It was freezing rain Tuesday morning, which led to me to missplant my feet. Luckily, I did not slip and fall and break my back. Then I could sue the university because of a non-snow day.

I walked to my first class, which began at 8 a.m. I'm glad 17 people showed up. The few, the cold, the students who care.

Millikin cares about their students. At www.millikin.edu on the main website,

there is a link with the headline of Millikin University Closing for Tuesday February 13.

It said Millikin University will be closing because of worsening weather conditions.

At the University of Illinois, there was a link that said classes were canceled.

It was very clear.

Even Lake Land College in Mattoon closed.

It is the role of the students to make the effort to attend classes, but what if they (especially those that commute) are endangering their lives?

The university needs a clearer communication system.

Perhaps a general e-mail to the students would help.

If they were able to send students a mass e-mail the night before, they should be able to send one out the morning of the potential snow day.



Kevin Murphy

Kevin Murphy is a freshman journalism major. He can be reached at kjmurphy@eiu.edu

TO COMMENT....

The Daily Eastern News welcomes responses to our original content.

For consideration, e-mail letters to DENopinions@gmail.com.

All letters to the editor may be edited for accuracy, clarity and length. Letters 250 words or fewer have the best chance of being published. Only letters that include a name, address and day and evening

phone number and that are verified by *The DEN* will be considered for print publication.

You may also choose to join in conversations taking place online by going to www.dennews.com.



Simon Russell

Simon Russell is an exchange student from the UK and a junior sport psychology major. He can be reached at simonrussell99@hotmail.com

YOUR TURN | LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Division II not the answer

The DEN's solution to the current state of our athletic department was for all teams to make the transition to Division II, taking SIUE's spot in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. I can not help but greatly disagree with this stance. It must be understood that most college athletic departments across the country do not make money. Programs like track & field, swimming, tennis, volleyball, and wrestling do exist to allow an opportunity for other student/athletes to be part of college athletics. There are more sports that exist and are successful outside of football and basketball.

Attendance at home games is obviously an area where improvement is needed. How will playing in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, as suggested by The DEN, improve attendance other than theoretically winning more games and more people wanted to see those games? Is playing a team like the Missouri-Rolla Miners more appealing than playing SEMO? Who has even heard of most of these DII teams? Relating with these teams will be no better than our current situation, and will probably be worse.

The DEN argued that a move

to DII would decrease student fees comparing our current fees to SIUE's fees. SIUE's are \$38 less for the year. First, in this day and age of inflation, fees do not go down. Second, a college student can spend \$38 in a day on a tank of gas and a case of beer.

Changing to DII would eliminate the big incentive games. EIU would not have the opportunity to play BYU, Hawaii, or the U of I. These games provide some income and are a guarantee for the athletic program. These games would be non-existent as a DII program and a half-million dollars would be eliminated from the budget.

The last I checked, DII teams do not play on any of the ESPN channels except for maybe the national championship. They also do not have the opportunity to make the Division I March Madness tournament. Being a member of the OVC at least allows the chance to make the 65-team tournament. Along with this comes money and promotion of the university. What tournament in DII gives us this chance?

The nature of DII is that teams are leaving. SIUE's departure from DII should be a sign of DII's lesser status rather than an opportunity for EIU.

EIU's football team has had two consecutive conference titles. They've made the post-season tournament both years. They're

winning.

Women's basketball is near making the conference tournament. They're winning.

The men's basketball team has won its last couple games.

The men's and women's track & field teams are on the verge of winning OVC titles this indoor season.

Fans even showed up for the ESPN games to actually create an atmosphere of home court advantage.

These are signs that it is possible to put butts in the seats and be successful as the Division I program that we are. A move to Division II would be a definite step-down and it is unfortunate The DEN feels it would be a step in the right direction.

Eric Vetter | Track and Field Graduate Assistant Coach

Not all speech is good speech

The fact that it took over a week for this superficial and silly defense of "free speech" to appear is simply more proof of the actual reason you published that ridiculous letter

and sent the entire university to the National Alliance. Laziness, possibly a consequence of overwork, is your offense to the campus.

Your arguments re: free speech implies that if The DEN had failed to print this letter, Smith's rants would have been "censored." Of course, even in a newspaper-only world, this is silly. Smith published a different letter in the local paper the following day (which I've since been told he routinely handed out to students is his courses); moreover the blatherings of Smith and others of his ilk can be found quite easily on the internet, even if you're not actually looking for them. Try typing "Triumph of the Will" into Google; it will be a while before you find anything relating to Leni Riefenstahl. Smith was not only never fired—as he should have been—but given an award for 15 years of service prior to retirement. Smith was himself the straw man he constructed to justify his own unethical teaching.

The best argument I have heard for printing Smith's letter was offered against it; by a student in a colleague's class, who, while he worked at a local paper, noted that the editorial staff routinely threw away such letters. Perhaps,

by allowing reasonable folk to believe these bizarre notions were not shared by their neighbors, this paper did them a disservice. That is to say, the paper didn't prevent freedom of expression, but instead denied to its readers a clear picture of the reality of their community. Of course, your own response merely prates about "free speech" as if The DEN itself were the gatekeeper; when only governments may truly censor expression, by providing punishments for speakers, refusing to mail their materials etc. etc. In fact, your choice at The DEN was not whether Smith's garbage would see the light of day, but whether it belonged as an expression of this campus. The editorial staff at The DEN was shallow enough to think this "debate" worth engaging. I'd ask "what on earth were you thinking" when of course the real question is, "do you ever think?"

Jonathan S. Colt | History Professor

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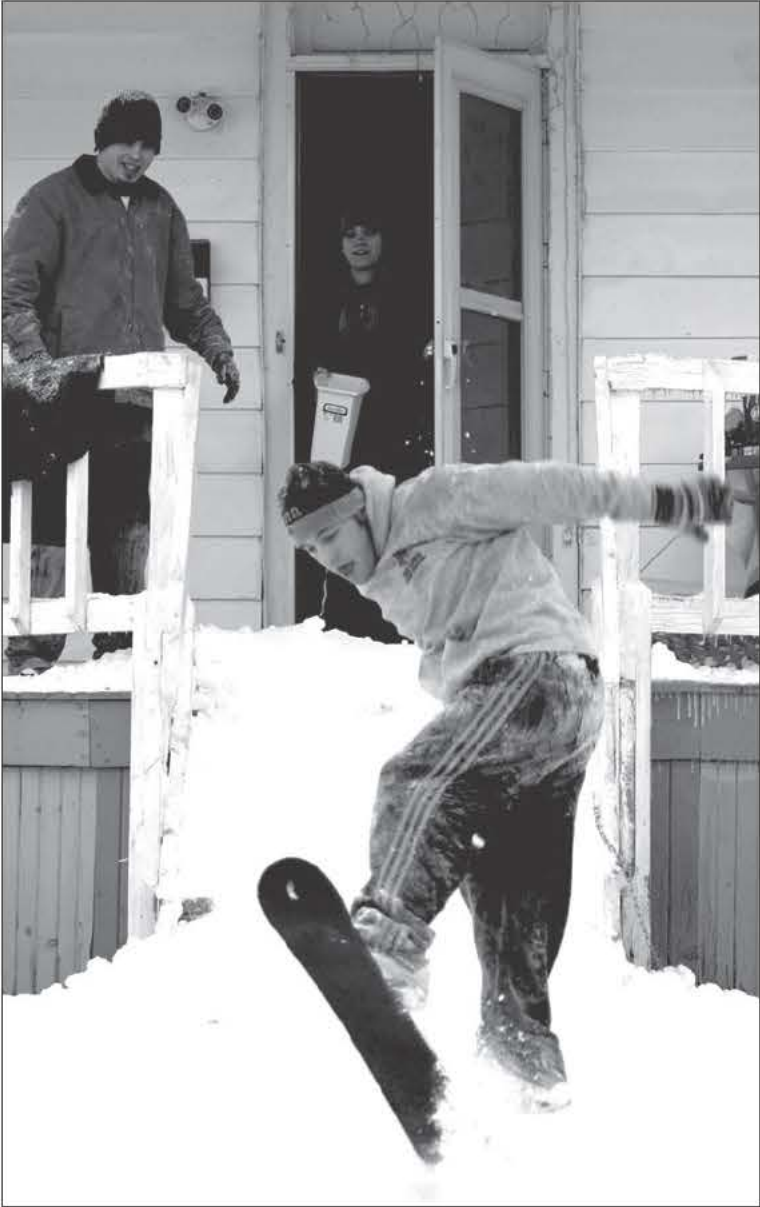
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Snow days, Charleston style



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Kevin Baumann pushes 6-year-old June Baumann and 7-year-old Greyson Baumann down the hill “one more time” before leaving Kiwanis park in Charleston on Wednesday.



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Meaghan Walsh, a senior psychology major, and Greg Boyer, a senior industrial technology major, watch from their porch as Blake Tomczak, a junior physical education major, snowboards down a ramp the trio had been working on since Wednesday on Seventh Street. “Snow days are the best way to gauge a college student’s creativity,” Walsh said.



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
The Greenwood School Museum’s bell is surrounded by icicles on Wednesday evening.



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
A Charleston Public Works snow plow pushes snow off Fourth street to make the roads safe for drivers on Monday afternoon.



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
A pine tree’s needles and pine cones are covered in ice from the freezing snow and rain that hit Charleston Wednesday morning.

UNITED NATIONS | SURVEY

U.S., Britain rank last in child welfare

Countries also get low marks for higher incidences of single-parent homes

The Associated Press

BERLIN — The United States and Britain ranked at the bottom of a U.N. survey of child welfare in 21 wealthy countries.

The survey assessed everything from infant mortality to whether children ate dinner with their parents or were bullied at school.

The Netherlands, followed by Sweden, Denmark and Finland, finished at the top of the rankings, while the U.S. was 20th and Britain 21st, according to the report released Wednesday by UNICEF in Germany.

One of the study's researchers, Jonathan Bradshaw, said children fared worse in the U.S. and Britain — despite high overall levels of national wealth — because of greater economic inequality and poor levels of public support for families.

"What they have in common are very high levels of inequality, very high levels of child poverty, which is also associated with inequality, and in rather different ways poorly developed services to families with children," said Bradshaw, a professor of social policy at the University of York in Britain.

"They don't invest as much in children as continental European countries do," he said, citing the lack of day care services in both countries and poorer health coverage and preventative care for children in the U.S.

The study also gave the U.S. and

Britain low marks for their higher incidences of single-parent families and risky behaviors among children, such as drinking alcohol and sexual activity.

Britain was last and the U.S. second from the bottom in the category focusing on relationships, based on the percentage of children who lived in single-parent homes or with stepparents, as well as the percentage that ate the main meal of the day with their families several times per week.

That category also counted the proportion of children who said they had "kind" or "helpful" relationships with other children.

The report's authors cautioned that the focus on single-parent families "may seem unfair and insensitive" and noted that many children do well with one parent.

"But at the statistical level there

is evidence to associate growing up in single-parent families with greater risk to well-being — including a greater risk of dropping

out of school, of leaving home early, poorer health, low skills and of low pay," the report said.

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Senate sends Bush massive budget

New bill gives money to struggling government agencies

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Wednesday passed a \$464 billion spending bill that closes out last year's unfinished budget business while providing clues about how the new Democratic Congress and President Bush will do business.

The bill, passed 81-15, sticks to Bush's overall budget caps but finds

numerous ways around them to add to programs favored by lawmakers, such as education, health care, food inspection and mine safety.

The mammoth bill pulls together nine unfinished spending bills funding foreign aid and every domestic agency budget except the Homeland Security Department.

The bill provides small but welcome funding increases to agencies that have been limping along at or below last year's funding levels in the four months since the budget year started Oct. 1.

Without the measure, food

inspectors, FBI agents and air traffic controllers faced furloughs, while more than 200,000 low-income people could have lost housing subsidies.

Democrats put off some costs, chiefly \$3 billion to implement a 2005 round of military base closings, for a \$100-billion-plus war funding bill to be debated next month.

The measure now heads to Bush, who has signaled he will sign it despite unease over the temporary cuts to the base closing program.

The money would help pay for

the redeployment of 12,000 troops stationed in Germany and South Korea to domestic bases and to prepare closed bases for economic development projects and other uses.

The base-closing cuts amount to a shift from the Pentagon budget to domestic accounts, and they are a sign of things to come as Democrats move ahead on the budget front.

Next up is Bush's \$100 billion Iraq and Afghanistan war funding request, which is widely expected to draw Democratic extras such as \$4 billion or so in farm disaster

aid when the appropriations committees debate it next month.

The White House wants to keep the Iraq funding bill as free as possible from such add-ons, but it is likely to have to accept some Democratic priorities as the price of getting the bill to his desk.

Then will come the fiscal 2008 appropriations cycle, during which Democrats are certain to transfer some of the proposed \$50 billion-plus increase for the Pentagon budget—not including war costs—to domestic programs, which are almost frozen under Bush's budget.

» Offenders

FROM PAGE 1

Jenkins said the Charleston police are working to form a similar team by May.

In 2006, the city of Charleston saw six sex-related crimes, while Mattoon saw 12.

University police Chief Adam Due said the department rarely sees any sex-related crimes on campus, although it has happened before.

Due recalled a specific incident several years ago, in which a student was not allowed to own a computer due to possession of child pornography.

Many of the sex-related crimes that take place in the city occur at parties that involve alcohol.

Jenkins described a common Charleston sex crime as an incident where a woman attends a party, has too much to drink, and wakes up to find she has been violated.

With instances such as these, the victim is sometimes

unable to recall exactly what happened because of the alcohol involved.

Because of instances like these, Jenkins regularly advises young women to be mindful of what may be in their drinks at parties.

Drinks should only be accepted in unopened bottles or cans.

Once a drink is started, it should never be left unattended.

Bonnie Buckley, executive director of the Coles and Cumberland County Sexual Counseling and Information Service, said that while alcohol is not necessarily a precursor to sexual abuse, it's often a common thread among victims.

"A significant number of people we see have been drinking," Buckley said.

Alcohol can often cause individuals to lose their inhibitions.

If a person already has a certain attitude toward women, or even men, alcohol will bring it out of them even more so.

"I suspect it has something to do with the traditional power imbalance of women," Buckley said.

» Snow

FROM PAGE 1

The Java Beanery and Bakery was closed Wednesday as well.

There was little business for the coffee shop on Tuesday, so Wednesday was expected to be the same.

But in the residence halls, business was usual.

"The students (who live in the residence halls) are eating us out of house and home," said Mark Hudson, director of housing and dining.

"They don't have much else to do, so we're feeding them well."

Hudson said not many students have actually gone home yet, which he knows

because of the amount of food housing and dining is going through.

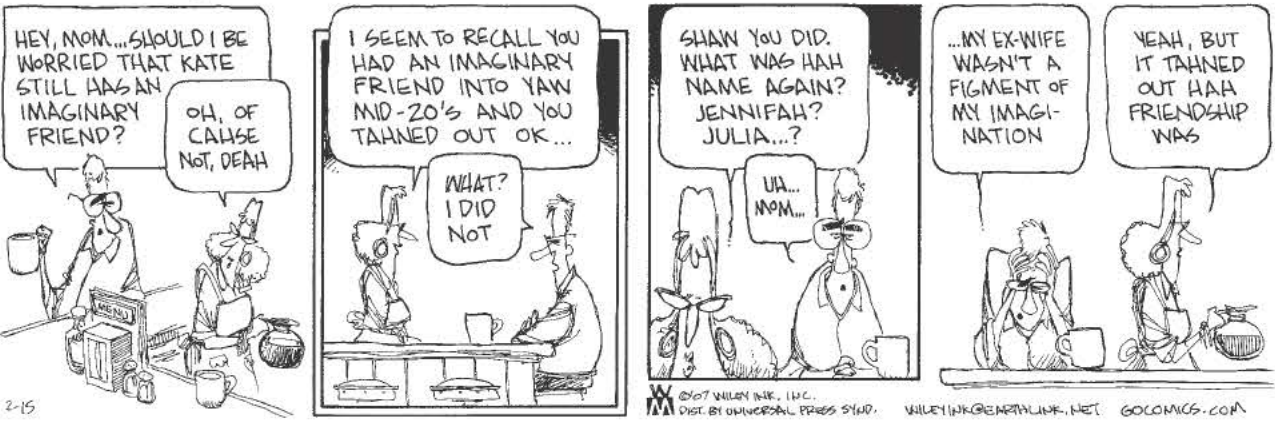
"It's interesting that students have had two snow days this week and then get a three-day weekend," Hudson said.

Many students took part in snow-filled football games in the quad, some of which lasted until the wee hours of Wednesday morning.

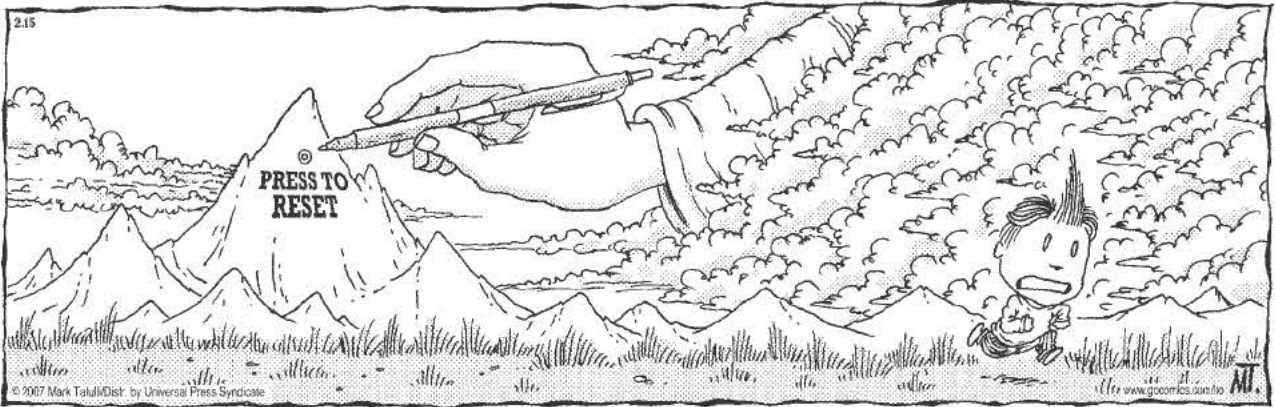
Resident hall assistants have been running activities and games in lounges to provide something fun for students to do.

"It seems as though many students are taking this opportunity to catch up with school work, but at the same time, they are still enjoying the snow and days off school," Hudson said.

NON SEQUITUR | WILEY MILLER



LIO | MARK TATULLI



The New York Times Crossword

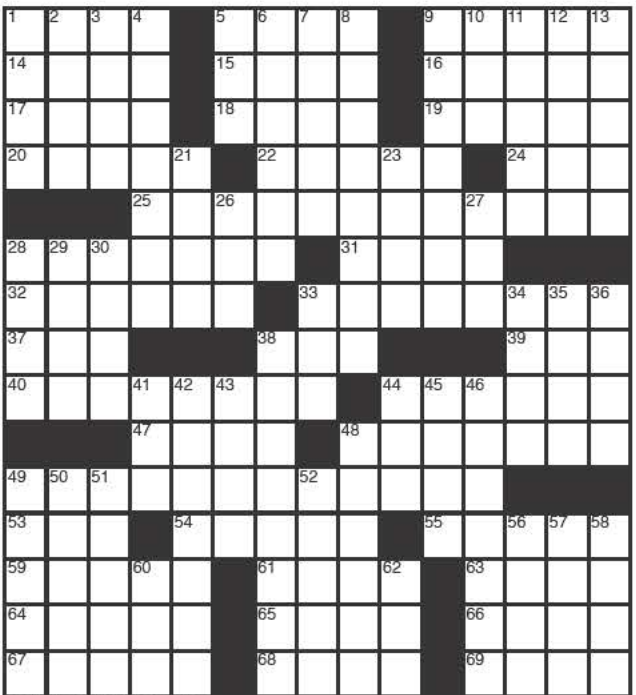
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0104

- ACROSS**
1 Picnic staple
5 Lincoln and others
9 Skiing mementos?
14 Puncture
15 "The Last of the Mohicans" woman
16 Playwright Fugard
17 Actor Morales
18 Make
19 Isabel, for one
20 Condescend
22 Rodeo performer
24 Good or bad name, informally
25 Sprint
28 Advantages
31 Classic Paris couture house
32 Poured
- 33 Haiti, once
37 Kind of orch.
38 Friend, slangily
39 Oxford letters
40 Without a regular schedule
44 Spanish entree
47 Concert wind
48 Having I-strain?
49 President
53 One of a pair of conjunctions
54 Novelist Gide
55 As yet
59 Sci-fi figure
61 "Tobermory" writer
63 Singular, to Caesar
64 "___ Mio"
65 Currier's partner
66 Uncommon trick taker
67 Goes (for)
- 68 ___ Gwyn, mistress of Charles II
69 Neptune's realm

DOWN

- 1 Tool holder
2 Shake
3 Asia's Trans ___ mountains
4 Preflight event
5 Crackerjack
6 Gets on
7 Kind of message
8 Los Angeles harbor site
9 Small bag
10 Got down
11 Bake in a shallow dish
12 Opposite of flabby
13 Haphazardly
21 Botticelli figure
23 Adams of "The Ernie Kovacs Show"
- 26 ___ Brooks, 1950's-60's "Meet the Press" host
27 Not go straight
28 ___ Major
29 Week or month at the office, usually
30 ___ Valley, Calif.
33 Zap
34 Prefix with pad
35 Wearers of eagle insignia



Puzzle by Alan Oischwang

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



- 36 Word repeated in a Beatles refrain
38 Isn't conspicuous
41 Iowa college
42 Rubs
43 Pork ___
44 Canadian prov.
- 45 Subjects of Guinness records?
46 Struggles
48 Mideast money
49 Members of a raiding party
50 Origin of the word "troll"
- 51 Show eager anticipation
52 Hunger for
56 Commuting cost
57 Realm
58 Skates
60 In a bad way
62 Cuba, e.g.: Abbr.

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

Sudoku By Michael Mepham



Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

2	9	6	1	5	7	8	3	4
1	3	8	2	4	9	7	6	5
7	4	5	3	6	8	9	1	2
4	5	1	7	3	2	6	8	9
8	6	2	9	1	4	3	5	7
9	7	3	5	8	6	4	2	1
5	8	9	6	7	1	2	4	3
3	2	4	8	9	5	1	7	6
6	1	7	4	2	3	5	9	8

Ellis, Eastern aiming to make Friday special

Softball set to open season at Central Arkansas tourney; men's tennis looks to continue perfect start

By Kevin Murphy
Associate Sports Editor

The men's and women's track teams will host the Friday Night Special at Lantz Fieldhouse.

Field events will start at 2 p.m. and running events at 3 p.m.

The meet concludes at 9:10 p.m., ending with the women's and men's 1,000-meter runs.

The OVC named senior pole-vaulter Kyle Ellis the field athlete of the week.

He broke his own school record in the pole vault at last week's meet at Iowa State.

Ellis has the best OVC jump this season at 5.21 meters and has already provisionally qualified for the NCAA Indoor National Championships.

On the women's side, the distance medley relay squad just broke a school record and could break another at the fieldhouse.

Starting off season in the south

The Panthers are leaving Charleston to travel to Arkansas for the Central Arkansas Tournament.

On Saturday, Eastern plays Central Arkansas, Alabama A & M and Creighton on the first day of competition.

The Missouri Valley Conference picked Creighton to finish fifth.

The Ohio Valley Conference picked the Panthers to finish sixth out of 11 teams. Returning are seven starters in the field and pitchers Karyn Mackie and Kathleen Jacoby.

The Panthers were picked seventh in the conference before last year but took third in the OVC Tournament last season.

Jacoby won 21 games last year and is expected to be the No. 1 pitcher for the Panthers again.

She set a freshman record for wins and had the most wins for a Panther pitcher since 1988.

Women on prowl for fifth straight win

Senior Chuck Levaque will lead the men's tennis team Saturday against the Indiana State Sycamores.

Levaque is fifth on the OVC preseason tennis top-ten list.

Last season, Levaque finished with a 13-6

overall record and 6-3 in OVC action. He is 4-0 in the spring season.

With a win, Eastern, predicted to finish tied for eighth in the 10-team OVC, would already have half the number of wins it had all of last season.

The women's squad (4-1) travels to Rockford on Sunday to play Northern Illinois.

Junior Sandra Sasidharan will lead the Panthers as they look for their fifth consecutive win after dropping the season opener to Illinois State.

Last year, the women only won six matches.

The OVC added Sasidharan to their preseason tennis top-ten list. Sasidharan is eighth on that list.

Sasidharan ended last year with a 15-6 record overall and went 5-5 in OVC play.

Team heads north to take on Loyola

The men's basketball team plays Saturday against Loyola (Chicago) in an ESPN Bracketbuster game.

Tip-off is set for 3 p.m. at the Gentile Center in Chicago.

The Panthers won four of their last five and are being led by the play of guards Mike

Robinson and Romain Martin.

Robinson scored a career-high 25 points in last Saturday's win against Tennessee-Martin, while Martin had 17 points in Tuesday's win against Southeast Missouri.

The Ramblers, out of the Horizon League, have won four in a row and have only lost three at home this season.

Two of their home losses have been by less than five points.

Final meet before regionals begin

The wrestling team travels to Northern Illinois to face the Huskies, Eastern Michigan and Southern Illinois-Edwardsville.

The Panthers are led by senior Kenny Robertson (14-5) and junior Greg Perz (22-7).

Robertson, at 174 pounds, and Perz, at 184 pounds, look to gain momentum before the NCAA West regional on March 3. Robertson is a three-time NCAA qualifier and Perz qualified last year.

This weekend's meet will have three matches, the same as regional of the season.

The Panthers also seek their second dual meet win of the year.

The Panthers defeated Gardner-Webb, 27-15, on Jan. 21 for their lone dual-meet win.

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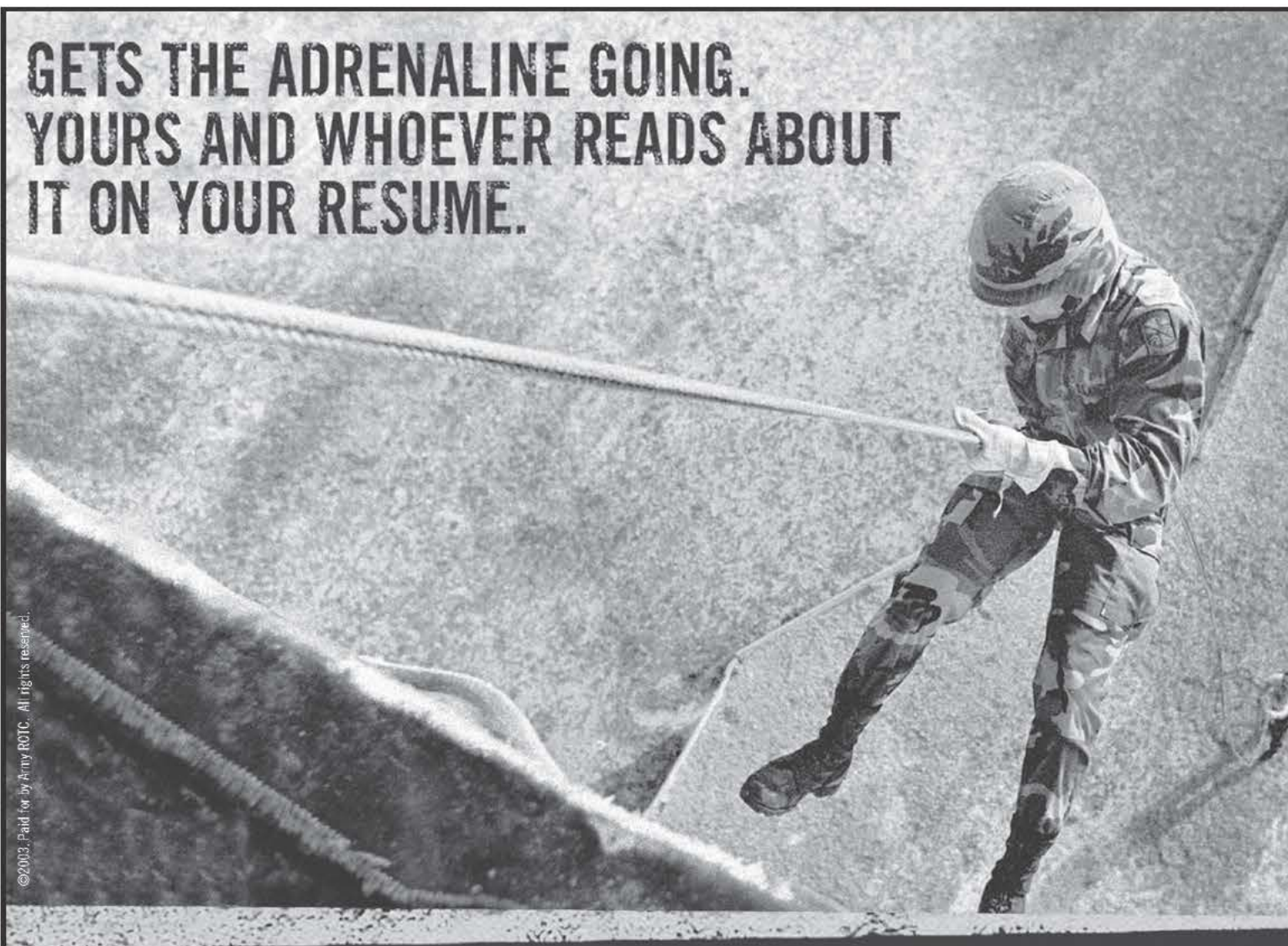
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Offense struggles in first half

By Joe Waltasti
Sports Reporter

The sound of a basketball bouncing was the only noise coming from Lantz Arena.

Sophomore forward Julie Lipperd had her iPod earbuds in while she worked on mid-range jumpers and post moves long after Eastern's 63-42 loss to Southeast Missouri on Wednesday night.

The janitor mopping up the floor after the game was her only company.

The Panther made only four shots in the first half en route to a 22 percent shooting performance. Eastern finished 12 of 55 from the floor and it committed 21 turnovers.

"It was hard to get anything going," said head coach Brady Sallee. "Nights like this are frustrating for everybody. I thought we shot ourselves in the foot with some of the decisions we made. You would think in mid-February, we wouldn't throw the ball to the other team like we did."

Eastern made just three first half baskets in a 63-41 loss to Samford on Feb. 3.

Against Samford, the Panthers missed shots despite having open looks at the basket.

But against SEMO, forward Rachel Galligan was controlled inside and the Redhawks' defense forced Eastern's guards into awkward shots.

"When teams are missing perimeter shots you can help a little more inside," said SEMO acting



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Head coach Brady Sallee sits on the bench during half-time of the women's basketball game against Southeast Missouri Wednesday night at Lantz Arena. The Panthers shot four of 26 in the first half.

head coach John Ishee.

Ishee said a team that is struggling with their shooting tends to struggle in other areas of the game.

"Scoring cures a lot of ills," Ishee said. "When you're making shots you tend to defend a little bit

harder, they transition more and they're more comfortable; it's just human nature. When somebody comes into the gym the first thing they do is not break down and start sliding. They pick [the ball] up and shoot it."

SEMO forward Missy Whitney and 6-foot-6 center Joiceline Thesing held Galligan to four of 14 shooting and 11 points.

"They could never get into a rhythm which allowed us to put more pressure on Rachel down

inside," Ishee said.

Galligan had seven of her points at the free throw line. Free throws were the only strong area Wednesday night for the Panthers — they connected on 15 of 21 attempts as a team.

» Offense

FROM PAGE 12

Even with SEMO shooting a poor percentage (36 percent), the Redhawks managed to get balanced scoring with four players scoring 12 or more points.

The physical play that SEMO (18-7, 13-4) displays can be best exemplified through Lachelle Lyles (14 points, 21 rebounds).

"Definitely," Galligan said when asked if SEMO was the most physical team she's played against. "They really make you work for your points. You know it's going to be rough."

Even with the loss, the Panthers remain a half-game behind idle Eastern Kentucky for the eighth and final playoff spot in the OVC Tournament.

Sallee sensed his team may be fatigued, deciding to give the Panthers a day off today in preparation for Saturday's home game against Murray State.

"It's still right in front of us," Sallee said. "But, we have to understand one person won't carry us to the promise land."

QUICK FACTS

*WHEN EASTERN'S WOMEN'S BASKETBALL'S OFFENSE ISN'T EFFICIENT AND PRODUCING POINTS, IT STRUGGLES. IN NINE OF THE 11 OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE LOSSES EASTERN HAS HAD THIS SEASON, THE PANTHERS HAVE FAILED TO SCORE 70 POINTS.

*FOUR OF EASTERN'S SIX OVC WINS HAVE COME WHEN THE PANTHERS SCORED MORE THAN 70 POINTS.

SEMO 63, Eastern 42

SEMO	min	fg	ft	reb	a	pf	pts
	m-a	m-a	e-f				
Whitney	29	5-11	3-3	2-7	2	2	8
Lyles	32	5-11	4-8	10-21	0	4	11
Lovelady	37	1-5	0-0	0-2	1	3	10
Nixon	36	4-10	3-4	0-3	4	3	17
Daugherty	32	7-19	0-0	0-0	2	2	6
Pal	19	1-4	0-0	2-2	2	4	2
Blunt	20	1-6	0-0	2-9	0	2	2
Diebold	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thesing	10	0-1	1-2	1-1	0	2	5
TOTALS	200	24-67	11-17	21-52	11	15	63

Field Goal Percentage: .358 3-point goals: 4-13 Blocked shots: 10 Steals: 18 Turnovers: 16

Eastern	min	fg	ft	reb	a	pf	pts
	m-a	m-a	e-f				
Scaggs	13	0-1	0-0	0-3	0	2	0
Galligan	33	4-14	7-9	4-11	0	2	15
Huffman	33	2-11	5-6	1-2	3	2	10
Canale	25	0-5	2-2	2-9	3	5	2
Thomas	27	4-9	0-0	1-3	3	4	10
Baker	4	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Sturtevant	9	0-3	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Eck	12	0-5	0-0	0-0	0	2	0
Maxedon	19	1-1	0-0	1-3	0	1	2
Kloak	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Kluempers	20	0-2	0-2	2-4	0	0	0
Lipperd	4	1-2	1-2	2-2	0	0	3
TOTALS	200	12-55	15-21	16-42	10	19	42

Field Goal Percentage: .218 3-point goals: 3-14 Blocked shots: 8 Steals: 6 Turnovers: 21

EASTERN FELL INTO NINTH PLACE IN THE OVC WITH ITS LOSS WEDNESDAY NIGHT. HERE ARE EASTERN'S REMAINING GAMES AS IT STRUGGLES TO MAKE THE OVC TOURNAMENT.

»Saturday vs. Murray State | 2 p.m.

»Feb. 22 at Jacksonville State | 5 p.m.

»Feb. 24 at Samford | 5 p.m.

INTRAMURALS | NOTEBOOK

Table tennis tournament champions crowned

By Chris Sentel
I-sports Reporter

Table tennis doubles tournament intramural champions were crowned Monday night.

Tony Ciasto and Steven Kitty claimed the men's crown, while the Christina Barranco and Yugene Ymovshorich claimed the women's champion title.

Ciasto and Kitty won the championship match 21-17 and 21-14.

"It's a fun event to come out have fun against other people that are very skilled, the scores are closer because this is against the best of the best," Ciasto said.

Both of the men said they have been playing table tennis for a long time, and they both take a lot of pride in their abilities.

Both of them also competed in the singles table tennis match.

Kitty placed second, but he said few people remember who places second, so it was nice to win the doubles tournament.

Intramural racquetball play to begin Monday

Intramural racquetball singles sign-up will begin on Friday. Students may sign up at the Student

TONY CIASTO | TABLE TENNIS MEN'S CHAMPION

"It's a fun event to come out, have fun against other people that are very skilled, the scores are closer because this is against the best of the best."

Recreation Center or online.

Play will begin on Monday.

Racquetball is a game in which one player serves a rubber ball

Players use a racquet similar in appearance to what is used in tennis, against a wall.

"It's not really a tennis racquet, it's a little smaller," said Kevin Linker, director of intramural sports.

"It's like an oversized ping pong paddle or about the size of a pickleball paddle, only it's not made of wood, it's laced like a tennis racquet," he said.

The winner is determined by winning two out of three games to 21 points.

If the match goes to three games, the third game is played to 11 points.

After the ball is served off of the

wall, it is only allowed one bounce before the other player must hit it back against the wall to the server.

Weather has little effect on intramurals

The bad weather may have put Eastern's classes on hold, but it hasn't stopped intramural sports.

No games have been canceled because of the bad weather.

There have been a few forfeits in basketball and indoor soccer, but the majority of the teams showed up and played like they would on any other day.

"No games have been canceled and the student recreational center is running normal hours," Linker said. "Our philosophy, (is that) we are here to serve the students."

SPORTS

THURSDAY

2.15.07

sportschedule

SWIMMING AND DIVING

Today at Mid-Continent Championships | All day, Indianapolis

TRACK AND FIELD

FRIDAY at Friday Night Special | 3 p.m. Lantz Fieldhouse

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | SOUTHEAST MISSOURI 63, EASTERN 42

Bad offense leads to bad defense

By Marc Correnti
Staff Reporter

Coaches like to point out that stats don't tell the whole story.

But the Panthers couldn't hide from the horror story that took place in the first half. While Eastern's offense hasn't been as proficient as it was in December, Wednesday night's 63-42 loss to Southeast Missouri brought a whole new meaning to bad offense.

The game started smooth enough for Eastern, with the Panthers jumping out to an 8-2 lead.

After the quick start, the Panthers' offense went into hibernation with the next field goal with 6 minutes, 40 seconds later.

By that point, SEMO found its offense in the form of Missy Whitney. Whitney scored 10 of the Redhawks first 14 points, helping fuel an impressive 34-11 run that put SEMO up 36-19 at halftime.

Following the conclusion of the first half, Eastern head coach Brady Sallee remained on the bench for a few moments looking in disbelief to a half that saw the Panthers shoot 15 percent (four for 26).

"You're gonna have nights where you don't hit," said Jessica Huffman, who finished with 10 points on two of 11 shooting.

The Panthers continued their array of misses in the second half, shooting 27 percent (eight for 29) and 22 percent (12 for 55) for the game.

Not only was Eastern's shooting horrible, but the number of errant passes and SEMO's ability to capitalize on the Panthers' mistakes proved to be the final dagger.

The Panthers (9-17, 6-11 Ohio Valley Conference) finished with 21 turnovers, with SEMO getting 31 points off Eastern's miscues.

"We were crazy out there," Sallee said. "You would think in mid-February, you wouldn't be making passes to the other team."

While the Panthers were inefficient offensively, most of the lack of production can be traced to SEMO's defensive game plan.

The Redhawks focused on surrounding sophomore forward Rachel Galligan with two to three defenders covering her on each possession, making the Panthers' perimeter players beat them — something they couldn't do.

"I knew they were trying to take me out of the game," Galligan said. "We were banking on our (perimeter players) making shots. Unfortunately, they didn't fall tonight."

» SEE OFFENSE, PAGE 11

2007 Mid-Continent Conference Championship Swimming Preview



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore diver Kara Koonen prepares to dive in the Feb. 3 meet against St. Louis. Koonen and the rest of the Panthers begin competition in the Mid-Continent Conference Championships today.



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior Bill Senese is seeded first for the 50-yard freestyle at the Mid-Continent Conference Championships in Indianapolis. The championships are today, Friday and Saturday.

Grizzlies poised to win conference

Oakland seeded first in 37 of the 40 events

Teams go in knowing it's a fight for second

By Adam Tedder
Online News Editor

The time has arrived.

And before today's Mid-Continent Conference Championships even start, it appears the first place winner has already been announced: Oakland.

Though this is not official, it appears that this is what most of the Eastern swimming team believes.

"We're going in knowing first is pretty much out of our realm," said head coach Ray Padovan. "Being realistic because it's pretty hard based off of what they have and we knew that at the beginning of the year."

Eastern swimmers have come to the same realization.

"They are overwhelmingly favored," said senior Bill Senese. "Oakland has a bunch of fantastic swimmers. It's hard to compete with that."

Oakland's men's and women's teams have dominated competition since entering the Mid-Con in the 1999-00 season. Both men's and women's teams have won seven consecutive titles.

Now they are looking for their eighth straight championship and they are on track to do so.

The men's team is seeded first in 18 of 20 events and the women's team is seeded first in 19 of 20 events.

Eastern is only seeded first in one event. Senese is seeded first in the 50-yard freestyle.

With first place seemingly out of reach, the team has set its sights on

Other Mid-Con swim teams

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE



»Men: Senior Chad Thomsen

»Women: Freshman Rachel Musser

»Events to watch: 500-yard freestyle for women, 400-medley relay for men

IUPUI



»Men: Junior Brian Wheeler

»Women: Sophomore Elizabeth Scott

»Events to watch: 1-meter diving for women, 200-yard IM

CENTENARY



»Men: Freshman Wladimir Montoya

»Women: Freshman Maggie Vaughan

»Events to watch: 1,000-yard free for women, 200-yard fly for men

OAKLAND

»Men: Junior Zoltan Horvath

»Women: Senior Amanda Burwell

»Events to watch: 100-yard breast stroke for women, 200-yard individual medley

EASTERN ILLINOIS



»Men: Senior Bill Senese

»Women: Senior Brittany Winger

»Events to watch: 200-yard backstroke for the women, 50-yard freestyle for men

VALPARAISO



»Men: Senior Dave Peterson

»Women: Freshman Jaclyn Krause

»Events to watch: 500-yard freestyle for women, 200-yard breast stroke for men

WESTERN ILLINOIS



»Men: Junior Craig Frederiksen

»Women: Senior Madeha Farrar

»Events to watch: 100-yard freestyle for women, 1,650-yard freestyle for men

Outside of Oakland, we think we can beat all the other teams."

The competition for second place is wide open.

Eastern will revisit many teams that they competed against earlier this season and some they have not.

The competition consists of seven teams on both men's and women's side: Valparaiso, Western Illinois, IUPUI, South Dakota State, Centenary and Oakland.

The teams Padovan said he felt Eastern would have the most difficulty with are Western for both the men and women and IUPUI for the men.

Winger said she thinks Western will be the biggest challenge on the women's side.

"I think Western is going to give us really good competition," Winger said.

Western Illinois defeated the women's team 167-70 and the men's squad 130-111.

"I think all the teams will (give us competition)," Winger said. "No one really has the upper hand. They're all fierce competitors."

The teams may now be experiencing the pressure of the conference championship.

"This is the unknown time of the year," Padovan said. "I mean we've done everything we've wanted to, we're relatively healthy and at this point, we just go there and hope everything works. There's basically six months wrapped up in this meet, so it's a scary time."

Panther swimmers seemed on the edge as well.

"I know I'm starting to get a little nervous," Winger said. "I talked to a few of the girls and I think we're all getting the jitters."

second place. Padovan said second place is still high motivation.

Senior Brittany Winger agreed and said she was hoping the team

could get a second place finish.

"We'll make it a battle for second place," Senese said. "We came really close to getting second last season.